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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 051805Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5523
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
USIA WASHDC

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 2975

Exemption(s):
Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full
(☐) Classify as ☐ (☐) Extend as ☐ (☐) Downgrade to ☐
Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason ☐

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SOPN, AR, SZ
SUBJECT: SWISS JOURNALIST EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1951

1. SWISS JOURNALIST LUC BANDERET WAS EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA APRIL 30. THE OFFICIAL GOA COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT HE "TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS SITUATION AS A JOURNALIST IN MAINTAINING CONTACTS WITH EXTREMIST ELEMENTS WITH THE AIM OF SECURING INFORMATION ABOUT REPRESSIVE OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE VARIOUS SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS."

2. SOURCES AT SWISS EMBASSY HAVE INFORMED US THAT BANDERET WAS FIRST ARRESTED ON APRIL 15 AND HELD AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS. SWISS EMBASSY OFFICIALS BECAME AWARE OF HIS DETENTION ONLY THROUGH WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS AN "ANONYMOUS CONTACT" TWO DAYS LATER AND THEY WERE THEN ABLE TO ARRANGE CONSULAR VISITATION.

3. LOCAL NEWS SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT BANDERET WAS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE MONTONEROS AND WAS GATHERING INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC ACTS OF MILITARY REPRESSION TO BE USED AGAINST THE GOVT ONCE HE LEFT THE COUNTRY. ONE NEWSMAN WHO SAW SOME OF THE MATERIAL DEVELOPED BY BANDERET SAID THAT IT WAS "WELL DOCUMENTED." HE ADDED,

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HOWEVER, THAT BANDERET WAS QUITE NAIVE AND SPOKE SO OPENLY ABOUT HIS PROJECT THAT IT DIDN'T SURPRISE HIM THAT LATTER WAS PICKED UP.

4. COMMENT. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE GOA GOT WIND OF BANDERET'S PLANS THROUGH HIS OWN NAIVE INDISCRETION. HIS APPARENT INTENTION TO DO A HATCHET JOB ON THE MILITARY WAS THE CAUSE OF HIS ARREST AND EXPULSION FROM THE COUNTRY. THE GOA'S REACTION, THEREFORE, IS UNDERSTANDABLE AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FOREIGN NEWS MEDIA IN GENERAL (SEE REFTEL).
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